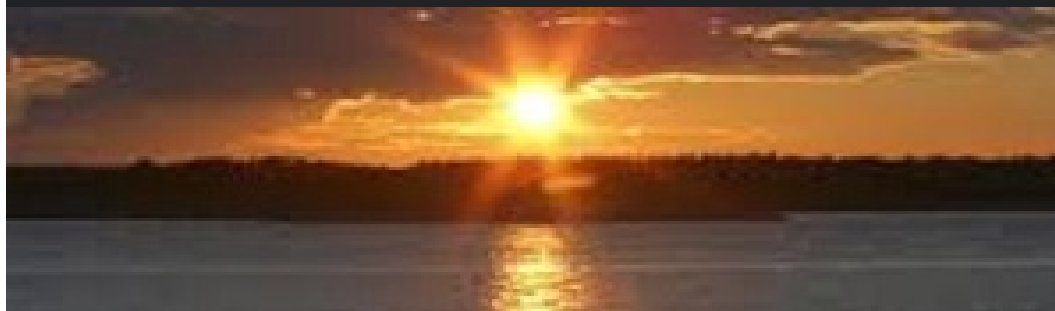




hszc.org



2013 - June 11 thru June 25

Please help support our temple, the Dharma & our programs.

[Donate](#)

Sangha e-Newsletter

Source: [Baizhang](#) 百丈懷海 720-814

The spiritual light,
shining
independently,
transcends the
senses and objects;
the essence is
revealed, real and
eternal,
not confined to
written words.



The nature of mind has no stain;
it is basically complete in itself.

Just detach from false mental objects
and be enlightened to being-as-is.

Hartford Street Zen Center is
a 501(c)(3) nonprofit
organization.

Donations are tax-deductible

Practice Schedule:

Monday - Friday

Upcoming Events:

Metta Guided Meditation second and fourth Fridays each month at 6pm - Lead by Rev Myō Lahey

Sewing Abbot's Robe with Tim Wicks - for the Mountain Seat Ceremony, Oct 13th! Saturdays @11:30am

Dharma Talks - Rev. Myo Lahey Saturdays: June 15, 22, 29... @10:15am

Guest Speakers Saturdays 10:15am - July 20 - Rev. Tova Green; August 10 - Rev Shokan Jordan Thorn; September 14 - Ayya Santacitta of Aloka Vihara; October 5 - Zachary Smith, Anshi Daigi; November 2 - Elaine Donlin Sensei of Jodo Shinshu; December 14 - Beata Chapman

Full Moon Ceremony - Saturday June 22: Full Strawberry Moon @11am

2013 San Francisco Pride - June 29 - 30: SFZC will again have a parade contingent & wants to include us, the wider Queer, Soto Zen, Suzuki Roshi lineage Sangha. Rev. Tova Green is organizing & is seeking Safety monitors (requires just 1 hour training) and folks to just join in to walk the parade route. Please let us know if you have interest and we can connect you with details! (you can just reply to this message or send to hszc108@yahoo.com)

LGBTIQ Community week long practice opportunity @ Tassajara - June 22 thru June 27 (very affordable rate). [Click here for more info!](#)

Sangha Council - To discuss any Sangha topics, concerns or even just creating connection: July 20, 2013 @ 12:30pm

Founder's Memorial - Issan's Memorial is generally on the 6th of the month, & the memorial for Philip Whalen is generally on the 26th @ 6:40pm

6:00 am Zazen (seated meditation)
6:40 am Kinhin (walking meditation)
6:50 am Zazen
7:20 am Chanting
7:40 am Soji (brief temple cleaning)

6:00 pm Zazen
6:40 pm Chanting

Saturday

6:30 am Zazen
7:10 am Chanting
7:25 am Soji
8:30 am Drop-in instruction
9:25 am Zazen
10:15 am Dharma Talk
11:00 am Refreshments/Social

HIV Meditation Sitting Group

weekly meditation group for those living with HIV, their friends, families, community supporters & anyone who wants to join us! Thursdays & Fridays

10:30 am zazen
11:00 am socializing

Meditation in Recovery

(Men & Women)
weekly meditation group for men & women in recovery from addiction

Fridays, 7:30 pm - 9 pm

Meditation in Recovery

(Women only)
monthly meditation group for women in

Study Hour The Book of Serenity, we have books to share, feel free to drop in - Thursdays @7:30pm

Next Board of Directors' Meeting - Second Wednesdays of the month:

June 12 @7:30pm (all are welcome to attend & observe)



Golden Boy - Matthew Skinta PhD (B.o.D Secretary)

2011 Pride parade breakfast in full golden Buddha make up, ready for his close up. Deep bows for his work in the secretary capacity teaching us about doodle polls, the front bike rack and many other numerous generous contributions!

This Issue: In the spirit of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Questioning or not choosing to be defined or limited to a label, community all of whom we celebrate this month, we would like to look back at the beauty of the past actions in this moment. In our own roots as a center created to encourage and support Gay Buddhists who banded together, organized and founded; initially decades ago: We sense their love and deep appreciation looking forward with great hope for the future and joy thinking about a living

recovery from addiction First Thursdays

7:15 pm - 8:45 pm



practice center for us. Now here living that reality we are looking back to them with love and appreciation and great joy for our living practice and its' Center.

It is surprising to recall as recent as 1969 a riot broke out from our community, tired of being abused and mistreated, a lesser respected and protected citizen in our country that boosted or ignited our rights movement. However that action of less positive tone in the past much to our joy now manifests from the mud of hate and confusion, even through physical violence to a beautiful event such as our annual Pride parade and two days of festivities in the civic center area for San Francisco. From that mud to a pure lotus of beauty of respect, support, love and connection. The long difficult path so far traveled and still distance to go to overcome delusion and hatred through compassion, kindness and patience. We are reaching ever further into the heart of humanity and dissolving negativity into love... We hold and appreciate that we are standing on the foundation of those who came before us and in appreciation we are continuing to progress to build a better future, one breath and present moment at a time.

Happy Pride month to all, we look forward to celebrating it with you and if you haven't been by Hartford Street ZC in a while, please do drop by, we miss seeing you. If you're new, we welcome you with genuine and sincere appreciation, enthusiasm and support (even if we seem a little quiet and introspective, we're thrilled to have a you here).

From our Resident Practitioners: We are still seeking a dedicated, fellow resident practice student. [Visit here](#) to see more detail & PLEASE spread the word to folks we know especially those in the Zen or the wider Buddhist Community!

Did you know? On our hszc.org website you can listen to recorded talks from HSZC Saturday morning talks directly on your computer, smartphone or you can subscribe on iTunes to add to your mp3 player to listen on the go via iTunes.

[To listen on our site click here](#)



Hartford Street Zen Center is a Castro neighborhood temple & residential practice center in the Soto Zen tradition of Shunryu Suzuki Roshi established to support & engage the Queer Community and its allies.

NEW! Women's Sitting group

(Women only)

Sitting followed by Dharma talk then tea and cookies. Mostly Zen. A safe space open to all women to sit, hear the Dharma & get to know one another. Free but Dana is always appreciated. Suggested \$5

Kicks off Tues, September 3rd: 7pm-8:30pm.

[To explore or start subscribing to the iTunes podcast feed click here](#)

Please remember although we don't charge for access to the Dharma, the website, podcast and temple or programs, we can only continue to operate from your generous donations & if you're in SF, please join us in person!

Words from our Practice Leader: Reverend Myo Lahey Valley
Streams May 20, 2013

We should take care that our practice, that the effort we make, isn't all shadowed or cobwebby with unnecessary stuff like my practice is no good, or I don't know how to do this, or if I were a real Zennist my knees wouldn't hurt or something. This is all completely unnecessary baggage. Why? Well, because Buddha's sun shines in everything, and no matter what we are doing the Dharma wheel turns and turns and turns. As we practice it may be a while before we recognize the impact of that truth in our own bodies. Even though that's happening now, we may not recognize it. Sometimes for a while we practice as though we're doing something somebody else told us about, something to do. So-and-so over there told us to sit cross-legged or something.

And at some point the Dharma blossom appears as this body, your body, without necessarily any particular fanfare.

Hartford Street History:
HSZC Newsletter Vol 2 No 1
June 1984

Although my own sexual orientation is heterosexual for many years I have felt that the growing acceptance of Gay communities and the accompanying empowerment of Gay people could become a potent Spiritual Force which will come to serve the True Liberation of all of us Straight and Gay. The Authentic Celebration of sexuality is one of the most powerful forms of religious Practice or Spiritual Life ever discovered by humanity. Indeed, this is such a potent path that distortions and grave mistakes are easily and frequently made. All the more reason then for general rejoicing that the Spiritual Practice which openly embraces our sexuality continues to grow - as demonstrated by the founding of the Hartford St, Zen Center.

Sexual orientation is no barrier whatsoever to True or Spiritual Life and sexual celebration can become Spiritual Practice...



MAY THE HARTFORD ST. ZEN CENTER FLOURISH FOR 1000 YEARS AND
SERVE THE LIBERATION OF ALL BEINGS OF ANY PHYSICAL APPEARANCE
AND ANY SEXUAL ORIENTATION WHATSOEVER.

— an American born Rinzai Zen monk (living in seclusion in the Southwest)
Jemez Springs
New Mexico

From the Garden: The flowers say the new black this spring and summer is orange. Orange is said to symbolize, energy, renewal, health, upbeat emotion; composed of the blend of red's stimulating attributes and yellow's perceived happiness response. Orange represents chatter and social activity and to the world of Buddhism we know it well in its saffron hues. We welcome many blooms in the range of orange currently; and as always invite you to come and see us show our blooms during these warmer days of a San Francisco's late Spring before the cold summer arrives.

TWITTER Don't forget to visit Twitter for last minute schedule changes general info and to see if anyone is offering up a social "meet-up" opportunity when your looking for some social, outside of the ZC quality Sangha time!

Board of Directors - Developments:

Board of Director Meeting this week with a full dock of items to discuss. Mountain Seat, future Hartford Street state, structure of our temple both building and operations and review of how we have been doing since last time they met all with the large task of ensuring we stay afloat financially and operationally...

Thank you Board!

Ascending the Mountain:

Reunited 'cause it feels so good... We are now officially sewing together on site only except a few smaller specialty pieces, all Okesa or Kesa panels joined into one larger piece and soon, very soon we will be doing the border. Sheryl-san has the bowing cloth (Zagu) to stitch offsite, Envelope pondering and material considerations to start. Garden is in sprint to wrap up in time for the event, more interior painting soon! Food, building updates and little here and there work as we progress towards October...

Follow us on [Facebook](#)

Visit us online at HSZC.org

check out our community events page for more events!

Get timely updates via [Twitter](#) as we work to revive this fast update model and see if we can utilize for a meet-up social opportunities too!

Our deepest gratitude to all who are helping to continue to move this project forward towards the ceremony.

Sangha Member Musing:

Bruce Boone

-- The End -

- August 2011

This is the velcro experience isn't it? But if not comprehended is there a possible window into the experience of its reality? Something electric. Something very commonplace. A compass. A road. Beyond that—am I at a loss? No, something—and something good in fact—has happened. It doesn't matter what I call it.

The number of valiums to put me to sleep is—at last! thankfully!—plummeting. I no longer wake up at night and reach over for HIS body but just because it's not there—is that a minus? Touching him is touching me. I'm not alone. I'm not an I any more. It's a we. Even in nothingness, Bruce? Yes, even in nothingness Jamie. Like for instance I don't have to take near as much valium to go to sleep now.

How do these combine? I'm a single unity, Jamie and me being the same now. Still—looking out the window on the inexorably sunless San Francisco mornings—am I not alone (as Jack Spicer would say) “as a stone in Australia.” Once I had a very crude Australian roommate—during that time in Munich after completing the language instruction and before actually beginning first university courses. I began to suspect alone-ness, stone-ness, Austrialness. Will you let me rewrite St. Paul? “If you drop me in the water, do I not sink?” If anyone were ever to write anything about me, in friendship, say—would they not have to count my faults as blessings now? I mean that in any account of me after Jamie's death there would be little—no, nothing—to say. Before my life ended, it ends. That is what I'd have any writer friend say about me. Though in place of recognition, would there not be something calmer, more tranquil to have to tell people about when you discuss me after Jamie? Been going on over two years now, it's like a hot-water balloon—floating up the skies higher and higher, but to where? Velcro-man. He's the opposite of Teflon-man. I lock into whatever is touched now. Is that not better?

Practice Leader, Hartford Street Zen Center (HSZC) --- Reverend Myō Lahey



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Please submit stories, reflections, personal news, artwork & photography for future newsletters to tetsugen.keido@yahoo.com

May this newsletter find you well & filled with equanimity! —/\—

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